

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Valentino MERCATI

Conf.

Application No. NEW NATIONAL PHASE

Group

Filed January 9, 2006

Examiner

PROCESS FOR OBTAINING TOBACCO LEAVES WITH A STANDARDIZED NICOTINE
CONTENT AND/OR IMPROVED COMBUSTIBILITY

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 9, 2006

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.

An **Appendix** is attached following the signature page of this paper.